

STATE OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

CEREAL SOWINGS, 1952

When particulars of the 1951-52 harvest were being collected from farmers during the autumn, they were asked to indicate the areas that they intended to sow with wheat, barley and oats for all purposes for the coming season.

The particulars were published at the time of issuing the usual bulletin covering details of the 1951-52 harvest.

A paragraph was inserted in that bulletin stating:-

"In recent weeks there has been on the one hand an appeal for farmers to sow increased acreages while on the other hand they have been hindered in some districts by excessive rain. Representative farmers are being asked to advise local police officers of the actual areas sown in order to ascertain whether farmers generally have sown more or less than intended."

Farmers representing nearly twenty per cent of the total area sown supplied particulars of the areas they had actually sown and these indicate that the full intended area was sown for wheat, an increased acreage for barley and a largely decreased acreage for oats. The whole of the decrease in oats is accounted for by the Western Division. The District Agricultural Adviser for Upper Eyre Peninsula reported:-

"There appears to be a falling off in the acreage of oats being sown, due probably to the great amount of good self-sown crops which will be about. There were heavy losses of oats through wind last summer, and enough will have fallen on the ground and not have been eaten by stock to seed the paddock down again. Farmers are taking advantage of this fact to sow less new ground to oats. Some farmers have even given the paddocks a light working and dressing of superphosphate."

It is possible that some of these self sown crops may be harvested for grain or hay, in which case the final figures for the oaten acreage will be increased.

The following are the particulars:-

	<u>Wheat</u> <u>Acres</u>	<u>Barley</u> <u>Acres</u>	<u>Oats</u> <u>Acres</u>
1951-52 Actual	1,688,084	858,789	816,379
1952-53 Intended	1,530,000	850,000	745,000 (a)
August Estimated	1,530,000	895,000	645,000

(a) Misquoted as 816,000 in earlier bulletin.

A. W. BOWDEN,

Statistical Office,
ADELAIDE.

GOVERNMENT STATIST.

26th August, 1952.